

World & Nation

Capsules

Fake encyclical denounced

Washington (NC) — Archbishop Pio Laghi, papal pronuncio to the United States, has warned U.S. bishops that a self-styled "encyclical" on peace and nuclear disarmament is fraudulent.

Bishops and journalists received the fake document in September and October in Italy and the United States. Titled "Resurrectio Pacis," the document was sent in one of two versions, English or Italian, and typeset under the borrowed masthead of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper.

Meese to be honored

New York (NC) — Attorney General Edwin Meese III has been named to receive the first Morton A. Hill Memorial Award from Morality in Media, an anti-pornography association. The award, named after the association's founder who died in 1985, is to be presented to Meese October 31 at the association's national convention in Orlando, Fla.

Meese was chosen "for creating the National Obscenity Enforcement Unit and making obscenity law enforcement one of his principal priorities."

Bork rejected by Senate

Washington — The Senate's 58-42 rejection of Supreme Court Judge Robert H. Bork on October 23 was a vote to defend legal abortion on demand, according to David N. O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee. "Pro-abortion groups feared that Judge Bork would become the deciding vote on the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe vs. Wade* and end legal abortion on demand," O'Steen said.

It is widely recognized in Washington that many of the attacks on Judge Bork were motivated mainly by Bork's past criticisms of the Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion," O'Steen said.

Bork's nomination was endorsed by the Knights of Columbus and by Jesuit Father Virgil Blum, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. It was opposed by a variety of civil rights and education groups, among others, which labeled him a conservative ideologue.

Investors' demands rejected

Salt Lake City (NC) — A group of investors from religious organizations challenged Morton-Thiokol, a major defense contractor which manufactures strategic defense missile parts, on its lack of plans for economic conversion and were told to get out as stockholders if they didn't like the company's products.

Dominican Sister Patricia Daly, representing Christian Brothers Investment Services, and Presentation Sister Eloise Thomas, of the Eighth Day Center for Justice in Chicago, asked Charles S. Locke, the company's chief executive officer and chairman of the board, what the plans were for possible conversion of its facilities to peaceful use. "We are defense contractors and we intend to remain a defense contractor," he responded. "If you don't like that, I suggest you sell your stock."

Synod committee named

Vatican City (NC) — Four bishops and a priest have been appointed to compile a final message from the Synod of Bishops, the Vatican announced today.

This message, to be released at the end of October 1-30 synod, will be pastoral in nature. It will not contain the specific propositions the synod approved regarding its theme, "The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and the World 20 Years after Vatican II."

The October 22 Vatican statement said members of the drafting committee representing the five language groups are: Bishop Dario Castillon Hoyos of Pereira, Columbia, president of the Latin American Bishops' Council, for Spanish; Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi of Caceres, Philippines, for English; Bishop Robert Sastre of Lokossa, Benin, for French; Chaldean Bishop Yusef Ibrahim Sarraf of Cairo, Egypt, for Latin; and Father Marcello Zago, superior general of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, for Italian.



TWIN SUPPORT — Twin banners hang from a bell tower of St. Olaf's Church in downtown Minneapolis. The top banner says "Vincite Gemini," which is Latin for "Win Twins." Many other churches in the Twin Cities had similar banners urging on the hometown Minnesota Twins, who won the World Series in seven games over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Author suggests solutions for priest shortage

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — The growing shortage of Catholic priests in America "is an institutional problem, not a spiritual problem," according to a new book by Catholic University of America sociologist Dean R. Hoge. The shortage "can be solved through institutional measures," the book said.

The institutional changes which Hoge described as having the most potential for alleviating the priest shortage were the acceptance of married men for ordination and the continued expansion of lay ministries, already growing rapidly across the country.

Among other possible institutional changes that he spelled out, but with less anticipated impact on the priest shortage, were:

- redistribution of priests;
- recruiting more seminarians;
- expanding the permanent diaconate; and
- changing Church rules on ordination of women, on the permanency of active ministry, or on the reactivation of men who have left the priesthood.

The most radical and dangerous approach, he said, would be to concentrate on expanded lay ministries and do nothing about the clergy shortage itself, because that could lead to a Church that becomes non-sacramental or congregationalist.

The Church could become non-sacramental, he said, because Catholics lacking weekly access to Mass may become accustomed to living without it. Congregationalism is a danger, he said, because without initiatives from the hierarchy Catholics may start to ignore their bishops and take their own initiative to provide the ministers they feel they need for their parishes.

Compared with those options, "the ordination of married men and of women is the safest course," with far less impact on fundamental Church teaching and governance, Hoge argued.

Hoge's book, "The Future of Catholic Leadership: Responses to the Priest Shortage," was published by Sheed and Ward. It was the product of three years of research by Hoge on U.S. Catholic priests, seminarians, vocation trends, and attitudes of adult and college-age Catholics.

Pope John Paul II argued in 1981 that the vocations shortage is "part of the spiritual crisis which exists in the whole of modern civilization." More recently, during his visit to the United States in September, he called on priests and bishops to resist the "prophets of doom" and find the resolution to the vocation crisis in prayer — "the primary way to success" — and in renewed faith in "the power of the Lord of the harvest." Hoge rejected the spiritual crisis argument, saying that "there is no evidence to support" that view.

A 1983 study showed "that all the

middle-class Protestant denominations (in the United States) have a surplus of clergy," he wrote. "The Catholic Church alone has a shortage. Yet both mainline Protestants and Catholics live in the midst of the same mainstream American culture. Their young men attend many of the same colleges, watch the same television shows, participate in the same youth culture, and emerge with similar self-conceptions.

"The reason for the low enrollment in Catholic seminaries cannot be due to any putative cultural factor which distinguishes Catholics from mainline Protestants in America," he concluded. "It must be due to differences in institutional rules concerning clergy."

In discussing recruitment of seminarians Hoge discounted the "mother's revenge" theory advanced by some to account for the low number of vocations today. He said a comparative study of three major surveys of Catholics over the past two decades provides no evidence to bear out the theory that women are now less likely to encourage a son to be a priest because they are angry over Church treatment of women.

Mothers today are still more supportive than fathers of the idea of having a son become a priest, he said, and "on no relevant survey question did Catholic women come out more angry than men.... We conclude that some Catholic women are no doubt angry, but a mother's revenge cannot be held to account for the downward trend in vocations to the priesthood."

Another category of options Hoge

explored involved changing the eligibility criteria for ordination: ordaining married men, ordaining women, restoring some resigned priests to active ministry, or instituting a term of ministry or a practice of accepting resignations from ministry without a sense of disapproval.

He said sociological studies indicate that ordination of married men would have a high impact on the number and quality of candidates for the priesthood. There also would be a substantial impact — but less than the impact of the ordination of married men — if the demand for a lifetime commitment were changed, he said.

Ordination of women would have a limited impact on the priest shortage at first because of resistance to women priests, but it would probably have a significant impact in the long term, Hoge said.

Because most resigned priests are married, restoration of some priests to active ministry would have a low impact unless married priests were accepted, he said.

The ordination of women or the institution of a limited-term priesthood would entail "serious theological difficulties," he said. Church teaching on the sacrament of orders holds that it is received permanently. Papal statements on the ordination of women priests have described Church opposition as based on central doctrinal concerns.

Hoge noted that the celibacy requirement is acknowledged by the Church as a disciplinary decision, not a doctrinal rule, and a change would involve no major theological issues.

Vatican predicts budget shortfall

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — Worldwide contributions to the Vatican to cover its annual budget deficit have more than doubled so far this year, but are still far from sufficient, according to a Vatican press release. The Vatican estimates its 1987 shortfall to be a record of more than \$59.3 million — down from its preliminary March estimate of \$63 million, said the Oct. 22 press release.

Through September 1987, contributions to cover the shortfall amounted to nearly \$35.8 million. Giving for the same period last year was nearly \$17 million. The total contribution in 1986 was slightly more than \$32 million.

The release attributed all the information to Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of state. It did not say why the contributions rose nor how the money was collected. Worldwide contributions have normally been channeled through the Peter's Pence collection taken up once a year for use by the pope. In recent years the Peter's Pence money has gone directly to cover the shortfall. Earlier this year, however, a letter was sent to the world's bishops asking them to find other ways of raising money to cover

the deficit.

The press release hinted that one method has been to get bishops and religious orders to send more money to support the Vatican. Cardinal Casaroli "expressed the hope that the bishops, religious communities and faithful throughout the world ... might be more generous in supporting" the Vatican, said the press release. The press release said the bishops would be sent another letter in November "expressing thanks for increased generosity to the Holy See and urging all Catholics to continue to assist the Holy Father in supporting the central services of the Church."

The Vatican release, however, raises several questions.

Despite the more than \$18 million increase in worldwide contributions, the press release lists estimated 1987 income as being \$4 million less than the 1986 income. No explanation is given.

The Vatican is doing its part to cut deficits by "strict budgetary controls," said the release, citing a \$1 million cutback in 1987 expenses over 1986 expenses. But it does not say how or where this money is being saved.